

Rural Development names new director of single family housing

Doug Canup was named director of single family housing programs for USDA Rural Development in Georgia in June, 2006. He oversees loan and grant programs in Georgia's 159 counties and is responsible for applications coming through 21 local offices. As program director, he works in the state office in the Stephens Federal Building on the corner of Hancock and Thomas streets in Athens.

The program budget varies annually and is determined by the Congress. In Fiscal Year 2005, over \$80 million was invested in single family housing programs in Georgia. Programs are for very low to moderate income families in rural areas.

"I enjoy seeing the dream of homeownership come true for rural Georgians," Canup said. "It feels good to stimulate economic growth and provide affordable housing for rural families."

Canup has over 29 years experience with the agency and served in the single family division from 1984 to 1999. He began servicing loans then moved to direct loan making responsibilities. When the agency started a guaranteed housing program, he assumed that responsibility and was responsible for lender recruitment, training, and providing written guidance to all lenders on the new program.



Nationally, he produced one of the first loans in this new program and made the most loans. He was recognized by officials in Washington, D.C., and at the state level in Georgia for these accomplishments. Georgia led the nation in the production of GRH loans from 1991 until 1999 when Canup took a promotion in another job in the agency.

In 1999, Canup was promoted to one of only six area director positions in Georgia. As director of the Athens office, he was responsible for the area office and four local offices in

northeast Georgia. The area office is responsible for multi-family housing, water and waste, community and business loan and grant programs in a 27 county area. The four local offices under his supervision conducted housing programs.

Canup has worked for USDA Rural Development since 1977. He worked in the three South Carolina offices of Bennettsville, Chesterfield and Orangeburg, before serving as county supervisor in Hartwell, Ga., from 1980 to 1984.

Canup has a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from the University of Georgia.

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